

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. As no new matter, Applicants respectfully request entry of these remarks at this time.

THE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 1-17 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being obvious over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,729,976 to Bissonnette *et al.* for the reasons provided on page 2 of the Office action. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). As such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any issues pertaining to the patentability of the pending claims.

A Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith to extend the time for response two months to and December 1, 2004. A Fee Sheet Transmittal is submitted herewith to pay for this extension and the Terminal Disclaimer fee. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any other fees be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0397.

Respectfully submitted,
SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP

Dated: November 29, 2004

By: Stephanie D. Scruggs
Stephanie D. Scruggs, Registration No. 54,432
SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, LLP
3000 K Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7755 Telephone
(202) 295-8478 Facsimile